

# New England *Ecological Services Field Office in Massachusetts*

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## Contact

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Headquarters located in Concord, New Hampshire, with satellites in Sunderland, Massachusetts, Old Town, Maine and Charlestown, Rhode Island.

## Purpose

Field office staff work with landowners, private organizations, government agencies and other partners to conserve fish and wildlife resources in New England.

## Management Activities

- In partnership with other agencies and organizations, restore populations of plants and animals on the federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species.
- Provide technical assistance to the Army Corps of Engineers to avoid or minimize the environmental impacts of wetland development projects.

- With public and private partners, develop ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate harmful effects of hydropower projects.
- Assess effects of contaminants on fish and wildlife resources, obtain compensation for and restore wildlife injured by contaminants, and resolve contaminant problems on existing and proposed Service lands.
- Carry out the Department of the Interior's responsibilities on oil and chemical spill response teams.
- In partnership with other agencies and conservation organizations, restore degraded habitat and remove barriers to fish passage.

## Highlights

The Service is actively assessing injury and associated monetary damages for the Bouchard oil spill.

The Cape Cod National Seashore and the Service are consulting informally on revisions to the seashore's piping plover management strategy with respect to recreational activities.

Service biologists continue to work with the Federal Furnace Company in Carver, owner of habitat supporting the largest population of red-bellied cooters, an endangered freshwater turtle.

Negotiations among Service biologists and engineers, state fisheries staff, and the city of Holyoke led to the construction of new upstream fish passage facilities at the Holyoke Project, which will substantially enhance fish restoration efforts on the Connecticut River. The Service, working with the state and others, is restoring wetlands through invasive plant control.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
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*Piping plover chicks*

## Issues

The Service is providing input to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on their revision of the State Water Quality Standards and working to ensure that adequate minimum streamflow requirements and in-river uses of water for fish and wildlife are protected in the revised standards.

The Service is reviewing a number of proposals to place wind farms in western Massachusetts, and is consulting with the Minerals Management Service on Cape Wind's application to place 130 wind turbine generators in Nantucket Sound.

Service biologists are coordinating with the Coast Guard and coastal towns to ensure that seasonal fireworks displays proceed without adversely affecting threatened piping plovers.

